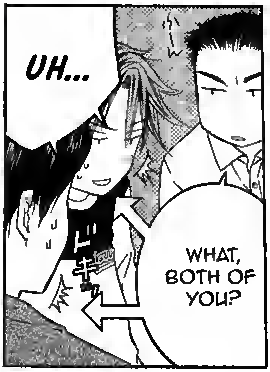
CHAPTER 11.2: WOMAN

... YOUR EX IS ABOUT TO GET MARRIED.
IN A NUTSHELL ...
DRIVIN'
DRIVIN'

THEN WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
AND YOU STILL LOVE HER.


UH...
WHAT, BOTH OF YOU?

WHAT, YOU STILL MANAGE IT ON THIS JOB?
ME TOO, I'M BUSY WITH THE JOB.
UH...

3 YEARS OF CELI-BACY?
NO... IT'S PRETTY BARREN
HAVE YOU MET ANY OTHER WOMEN?
I'M A BUSY MAN, AS YOU KNOW

IT WAS ALL PROST-ITUTES
EH
THAT I COULD GO OUT WITH GIRLS
IT WAS ONLY WHEN I WAS WORKING UNDER THE YAKUZA
TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS TYPE OF WOMAN
WHAT? EH!
OH NO, YOU'RE WRO-NG!
I DON'T THINK SMART WOMEN ARE ATTRACT-IVE
HE BROUGHT IT UP OF HIS OWN FREE WILL!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU MENTION-ED IT
YES SORRY
TRY TO WATCH YOUR WORDS IN FRONT OF HIM
REGARD-ING KOTOKO, THINGS ARE EVEN EASIER AFTER A FEW DRINKS
INTEL-LIGENT OR NOT, A WOMAN IS A WOMAN!
UGH
ALCOHOL IS FOR-BIDDEN!
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT THIS WITHOUT A SMALL BEER
BE-CAUSE
EH
WHY DID YOU SEPARATE AFTER BEING IN A LONG DISTANCE RELATION-SHIP FOR SO MANY YEARS?

KOTOKO SPECIALIZED IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF YOUNG CHILDREN.
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO GET A POSITION FOR THAT KIND OF RESEARCH, BUT SHE GOT ONE.
THE PROBLEM WAS THAT SHE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THE WORK-PLACE.
IT WAS THE SAME FOR MY JOB AS WELL.
OVER TIME, THE DISTANCE WAS SO MUCH THAT WE ONLY SAW EACH OTHER TWICE A MONTH.

THIS WENT ON FOR SIX YEARS?!
WELL YEAH ...
WHAT PERSEV-ERANCE ..

YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER?
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT?
SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE HAS STUDIED EXTENSIVELY
AND I KNOW HOW HARD YOU HAVE TO WORK TO GET THERE.
I COULD NOT IMPOSE ON HER LIKE THAT.

DESPITE MY WILL TO BE WITH HER, I COULD NOT LEAVE MY JOB.
WELL...
IMPOSE HOW?
IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME
...I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO ASK HER TO STOP WORKING AND MARRY ME
ACTUALLY ...
I WANT TO GET MARRIED ONE DAY SO, I MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE... I HAVE TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE.
GOOD-BYE...
YOU KNOW ... I'M AL-READY 32
SO, ONE DAY...

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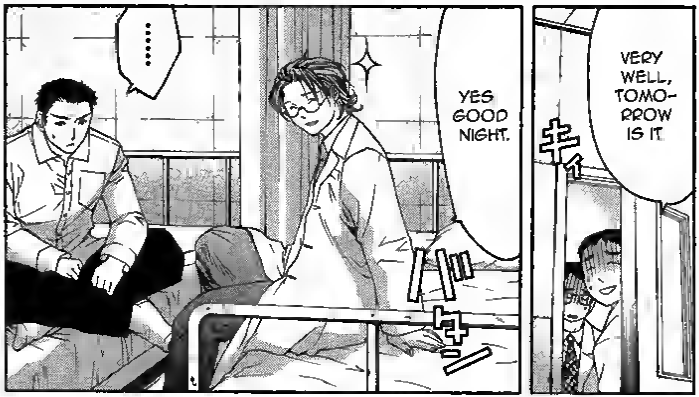
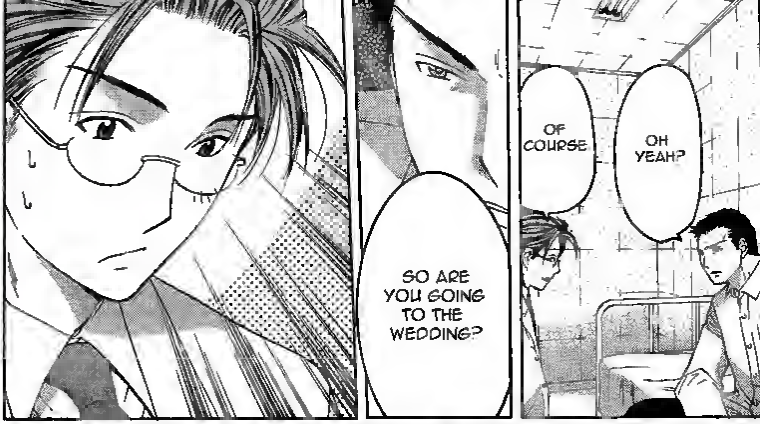
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE RECEIVED THIS WEDDING INVITATION.
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HA HA HA ...
I DON'T KNOW ...
GO?

TEN DAYS LATER ...


.....
YES GOOD NIGHT.
VERY WELL, TOMO-RROW IS IT

I BELIEVED THAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN TAKEN FULL RESPONS-IBILITY
I HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE MOTIVES OF THE TESTS, BUT MAYBE I'M WRONG. I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE
ABSO-LUTELY NOTH-ING
NO
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND. HAVE YOU DECIDED TO NOT LET GO OF ME LIKE I'M A SHOE?


OF COURSE
OH YEAH?
SO ARE YOU GOING TO THE WEDDING?

YOU DON'T WANT TO STOP IT?
IT'S TOMO-RROW
STOP THE WEDD-ING?!
!!

YOU HAVEN'T ASKED HER TO MARRY YOU YET, RIGHT?
WELL NO, BUT THAT'S NOT REASON ENOUGH TO STOP A WEDDING!
IF YOU DON'T SAY ANY-THING, THEN HOW CAN YOU KNOW FOR SURE?

I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD ANYTHING ABOUT WOMEN
IF...
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, THEN WHAT ABOUT ME?
IT WAS YOU WHO AGREED TO BREAK UP AFTER EIGHT YEARS!
POOH
...
I HAVE NO REASON TO STOP ALL THIS...
AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVING YOU HERE ALONE
AND WHY IS THAT?
I TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP...
... I'M SURE THAT IF I HAD, THEN YOU'D BE MISERABLE!
YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH! IT'S USELESS.

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カッ!!
ARE YOU A CONVICT LIKE ME?!
NO!! THEN IMMEDIAT-ELY LEAVE THIS CELL!
YOU, YOU'RE FREE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY!
DON'T CARE ABOUT ME!

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D DO THIS TO ME...
GO AWAY!
I PITY YOU.
EVENTUALLY YOU'LL GET ON MY NERVES FOR GOOD
WHAT WOULD PUSH ME TO DESTROY THIS MARRIAGE...?
!
!!
WAAH!
GET OUT!
WHAT BRUTALITY!
YOU ASKED FOR IT.
YOU DISRESPECTED HIM
...

WELL... I MADE MYSELF ANGER 042. EVEN THE SUPERVISOR HAS MADE UP HIS MIND...
I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU NOW...
I FIND NONE OF THIS SURPRISING.
IT'S HARDEST FOR 042, HE DOESN'T KNOW IF AYANO IS PREGNANT OR NOT.
IT'S FINE, YOU GO AHEAD.
SORRY, I SAID I WOULD DO SURVEILLANCE, AND HERE I AM TAKING A VACATION.
HAVE COURAGE!
DON'T FORGET HIS LITTLE GIFT.
042...
I'M GOING ...
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WHAT TO DO ...?
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IT IS NOW ...
I CAN'T JUST OPPOSE THIS MARRIAGE LIKE A SOAP OPERA...
WHAT WILL I DO THERE?
IF I DIDN'T ASK HER TO MARRY ME, I KNEW SHE'D NEVER HAVE BEEN READY TO STOP HER WORK FOR ME.
A COUPLE THAT IS ALWAYS AWAY FROM EACH OTHER IS DOOMED TO FAILURE.
BY WHY ASK HER TO MARRY ME NOW? THIS COULD REALLY BE A DISASTER...
THE CELE-BRATION WILL START IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS...
I CAN'T DO IT!
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HER MARRY ANOTHER MAN!
I WISH THIS...
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トボ
EH?
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SFX: DING-DONG
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KOTOKO ...
!
ENT TRA NCE
⇦
YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELL I... ...
AH!
THE WEDD-ING?
WELL...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING, SO I DIDN'T BOTHER LETTING YOU KNOW.
I CANCEL-ED IT.
THERE WILL BE NO WEDD-ING
WE AGREED THAT I WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK, BUT..
HE REALIZED THAT ONCE WE HAVE CHILDREN, THAT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE. FOR ME, IT WAS THE SAME.

GULP...
IT DOESN'T MATTER, ANYWAY...
KOTO-KO...
DON'T TAKE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU WRONG...
WHAT GOOD IS IT, I KNOW YOU'LL FIDDLE WITH IT...
WHAT?
I WANT YOU TO STOP WORK-ING AND BECOME MY WIFE.

YES.
HE HE HE...
ARE YOU SURP-ISED?
WHAT?
WHAT?

NOTHING SHE DOES IS IN LINE WITH WHAT SHE SAYS!
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T WANT TO STOP WORKING AND SHE NEVER WANTS TO GET MARRIED, AND 2 SECONDS LATER...
...SHE SAID IT, LIKE THAT!
WHAT IS SHE THINKING?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
IT MEANS IT WORKED...?
I THINK SO TOO.
WHAT, YOU TWO WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING?!
SO, CHIEF?!
AND THE LITTLE GIFT?
YOU WILL NOT PUT TNAT!
SO WHEN'S THE WEDDING?!
DON'T FORGET THE GIFT!
GET OUT OF HERE!
.....

AGH!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
ゴロ
I CAN'T SLEEP.
IT MAY STILL GO... WRONG BETWEEN US...
NO... IT'D BE NICE IF I COULD GET HER A JOB HERE...
ME, WHAT DO I KNOW ...?
I HOLD IN MY HANDS HERE THE FUTURE OF A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST.
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YOU COULD AT LEAST ENCOURAGE ME ..
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HN?
I WOULD LIKE FOR SOMEONE TO TELL ME THAT WE WILL SWIM IN BLISS FOREVER...
THAT'S STUPID ...
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THE EXAMS ARE OVER?
YES. WE FOUND NO ABNORMALITIES IN THE CHIP IMPLANTED IN 042'S BRAIN.
VERY WELL... IN ANY CASE, YOU WILL NOT SEE ANY HARM IN US SETTING OFF TODAY.
WE'RE GOING HOME, 042.
WITH PLEASURE.
?
WE ARE GOING BACK TO OUR WAYS.

WITH ALL OF HIS UNEASINESS, I WONDER HOW AYANO IS
GOOD..
CHIEF, YOU ARE INDEBTED TO 042 AND THE GENERAL SUPERVISOR.
THAT'S TRUE. THANKS TO THEM, YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?!
IS IT TRUE?
WHEN?
CONGRATULATIONS!
WHO'S THE LUCKY LADY?
ANY RELATION TO 042?
UGH...
!

AYANO
...
WHAT?!
IT'S AYANO!
EH!
.....
WHAT IS IT?

MR. TAJIMA, I'M...
I'M PREGANT.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU BEFORE THE NEWS REACHED YOU THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE...
I DID WANT TO TELL YOU THAT..
WHY?
WHAT A QUEST-ION...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT TO HEAR IT FROM SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME...

AND YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS BEST?
...
COMING FROM YOU, IT'S EVEN HARDER...
I'M SORRY.
DON'T BE.
THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
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!!
WHY ARE YOU CRY-ING?!

I DON'T THINK I DESERVE TO GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD.
I...
I CRY FOR NO REASON, RECENTLY.
F... FORGIVE ME.
I'M SORRY.
.....
I DIDN'T WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THIS.
I'M AFRAID OF NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE HIM OR HER HAPPY...
.....
I WOULD LIKE FOR SOMEONE TO TELL ME THAT WE WILL SWIM IN BLISS FOREVER.
THAT'S STUPID

THE ONLY THING I CAN WISH FOR YOU..
IS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY, AYANO
I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO.
AND I'M NOT CONCERNED FOR YOUR CHILD AT ALL.
I'M SURE IT WILL BE HAPPY, TOO.
BELIEVE ME.

I HAVE NO DOUBT.

THANK YOU...

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING...!

TAJIMA...
IT'S ME THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE HAPPY...
AND YOU KNOW IT.
WE'RE NOT OF THE SAME WORLD...
WOMEN
I DON'T UNDER-STAND THEM...
ハア

MR. TAJIMA!
DID YOU HEAR?!
AYANO IS PREGNANT!
YUME...
I KNEW THAT...
I'M FIDGETING IMPATIENTLY...
DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE A BOY OR A GIRL?
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY?
WE'LL SEE..
WELL, IT'S STILL GOOD NEWS!
WE MUST CELEBRATE THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS!

I'M SURE YOU WILL BE.
ME TOO, ONE DAY..
I WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL MOTHER!
CERTAINLY, MORE THAN JUST ONE CHILD.
ガク
HE HE HE...
I'M HAPPY..!
SHE'S WORSE THAN A LITTLE KID.
I'M SURE OF IT

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unfortunately, this is the last post for the summer D: see you in the fall!